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THE FRIEDMANN TREATMENT FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

In March, 1913, a board of officers of the Public Health Service was appointed to investigate the Friedmann treatment for tuberculosis. This board consisted of Surg. John F. Anderson, Director of the Hygienic Laboratory, and Surg. A. M. Stimson. The board has submitted its report, which will make a publication of 64 octavo pages.

The general conclusions of the board will be of interest to the readers of the Public Health Reports, and are as follows:

General Conclusions.

The claims made by Dr. Friedmann for his method of treating tubercular infections are, in brief, that, by means of injections of a living acid-fast organism, harmless of itself, he is able to cure cases of tuberculosis, pulmonary or otherwise, which have not already advanced to that hopeless stage where death is imminent. From the manner of presenting these claims and from the fact that successes only and not failures are reported, the reader of these claims is bound to assume that such results are the rule; in other words, that a sovereign remedy for tuberculosis has at length been discovered, and incidentally that a method has been devised for the administration of living acid-fast organisms which avoids abscess formation, a complication which has hitherto limited their employment.

The results of the investigation here reported do not confirm the claims made by Dr. Friedmann. We find, in brief, that the preparation used by him is not strictly devoid of dangerous properties of itself, still less so when injected into tuberculous subjects; that the favorable influencing of tuberculous processes by his methods is certainly not the rule, and that if we are to ascribe to the Friedmann treatment the improvement noted in a few cases, we are equally bound to impute to it the serious retrogression observed in other cases; and finally that the phenomenon of abscess formation has not been avoided by Dr. Friedmann's methods.

We find that the organism used by Dr. Friedmann differs in important cultural characteristics from any heretofore recognized tubercle bacillus.

The subcutaneous and intramuscular inoculation of animals with the Friedmann organism caused the formation of abscess in over 25 per cent of the animals treated.

The treatment of animals with the Friedmann organism—rabbits and guinea pigs—either before or subsequent to infection with virulent tubercle bacilli, is followed, as a rule, by an increased susceptibility to the disease.

Inoculation of monkeys with the Friedmann culture did not show either curative or protective action in those animals against tuberculosis.

Summary.

The claim of Dr. F. F. Friedmann to have originated a specific cure for tuberculosis is not substantiated by our investigation.

The claim of Dr. F. F. Friedmann that the inoculation of persons and animals with his organism is without harmful possibilities is disproved.

BACTERIOLOGICAL STANDARD FOR DRINKING WATER.

THE STANDARD ADOPTED BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT FOR DRINKING WATER SUPPLIED TO THE PUBLIC BY COMMON CARRIERS IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Surgeon General, the Treasury Department on October 21, 1914, adopted a bacteriological standard for drinking water for the purpose of the administration of the Interstate Quarantine Regulations as they relate to the drinking water supplied to the public by common carriers in interstate commerce. The following is the letter of promulgation:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, October 21, 1914,

The SURGEON GENERAL, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: You are informed that, in accordance with your recommendation of October 21, 1914, the department has adopted the bacteriological standard recommended by a commission appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury January 22, 1913, to recommend standards of purity for drinking water supplied to the public by common carriers in interstate commerce.

This standard is described in the first progress report of the commission, copy of which is attached hereto.

In the future common carriers will be required to furnish water for passengers in interstate traffic which will conform to this standard.

Respectfully,

W. G. MCADOO, *Secretary.*

The standard is one recommended by a commission appointed for the purpose by the Secretary of the Treasury January 22, 1913. The commission was composed of the following members:

John F. Anderson	Director Hygienic Laboratory, chairman of the commission, Washington, D. C.
Edward Bartow	Director, Illinois Water Survey, Urbana, Ill.
Charles C. Bass	Director, Laboratory of Clinical Medicine, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.
S. J. Crumbine	Secretary State Board of Health, Topeka, Kans.
Edward C. Franklin	Professor of Chemistry, Leland Stanford Junior University, Stanford University, Cal.
Henry Hanson	Bacteriologist, State Board of Health, Jacksonville, Fla.
Charles Gilman Hyde	Professor of Sanitary Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, Cal.